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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

CHEN

PANTHA

Pantha Prowls Again

She first appeared almost four decades ago in the pages of Warren Magazines' ***Vampirella #30***. Her origins tell us that she's far, far older than that. But one thing's for sure: Pantha has aged quite well! And readers will be able to see just how well in June, when Dynamite Entertainment unveils the first issue of their new ***Pantha*** series (slated for release the same month as the company-wide crossover event ***Prophecy***, in which Pantha also plays a part).

There's a very good reason that Dynamite has held off launching ***Pantha*** until now, a year and a half after their ***Vampirella*** relaunch. "Our goal was to roll out the library of characters slowly, establishing each character to build the largest audience possible," publisher *Nick Barrucci* explained. "We've learned from our previous mistake of launching too many titles, as we initially did with ***The Green Hornet***. Great books, but we released too many too soon. We thought it through and made our goal to establish ***Vampirella*** for fans and retailers, and have at least twelve issues in their hands before they ordered ***Pantha #1***.

"Pantha is a great character, one of the most recognized characters from the library we acquired with Vampirella. We felt that ***Pantha*** would launch much stronger if we gave Vampirella time to reestablish herself. We knew that, if we gave it time, Pantha would do very well once we launched it. We were willing to wait to do it right—and doing it right means great writer, great artist, and great launch!"

Did Barrucci plan for Pantha's relaunch and her appearance in ***Prophecy*** to coincide? "Actually, that's coincidence," Barrucci said. "We always planned to have ***Pantha*** launch in June. ***Prophecy*** was originally in May, and we moved back a month because a lot of cool story elements that were coming together; this allowed us to put together a better story. The stars just happened to align, and we have ***Pantha*** and ***Prophecy*** launching together. But ***Prophecy*** is a self-contained story, while the ***Pantha*** story will take place *before* the events of ***Prophecy***, so there is no tie-in."

So just who *is* Pantha? Series writer *Brandon Jerwa* offered a little insight into the character's backstory. "Pantha is an aspect of the Egyptian goddess Sekhmet, and she has walked the Earth for thousands of years. Like Vampirella, she tries to serve the cause of Order through her actions; personally, I think these characters really embody a sense of balance and neutrality by the nature of their existence in general. When all is said and done, though, they tend to do the right thing.

"Pantha can **spoiler alert!* * turn into a panther at will," Jerwa continued. "She has a conscious will in her animal form, and also retains a sort of heightened human equivalent of the panther abilities in her human form. She also has an enchanted amulet, but we're going to leave that as a mystery right now. Readers who have seen it before, years ago, may have some thoughts, but... well, let's just say that it's fun for me to have it in the toy box right now.

"Like her good friend Vampirella, the character of Pantha has many layers. My series is an equal mix of horror, suspense, mysticism, Egyptian mythology, and superheroic action. This is a comic for people who love comics as an insane, boundless platform for storytelling. You don't have to know anything about Pantha or Vampirella to understand this book, but I'm confident that longtime fans will appreciate some familiar themes and a slew of guest-stars from the vast Vampirella universe."

Popular fiction generally presents vampires and shape-shifters as figures of evil, but Vampirella most certainly is a heroine, as it appears Pantha will be. How many people are aware of her existence, and do most who know of her see her as a heroine? "I think that fewer people know about Pantha, and the few who do likely view her as even more of an urban myth than Vampi," Jerwa said. "A reporter named Jay Flynn may change that very quickly, however."

How important will Pantha's role as the avatar of the goddess Sekhmet be in upcoming storylines? "Well, the 'avatar' or 'aspect' idea was something that worked for my purposes right away," Jerwa explained. "All respect to writers who have worked with Pantha before, of course... but the Egyptian mythology ties she had previously weren't terribly consistent on a couple of different levels. The aspect idea allowed me to put a soft reboot on those concepts without ditching them entirely. Sekhmet's past will be very critical at first, and the events of the first arc will definitely influence the overall story I have in mind."

Did Jerwa have to do much Egyptian research to prepare for this part of the story, or was much of this already spelled out in the character's backstory? "The blocks were already in the playroom, but I built something new with them," Jerwa said. "I do research, and also checked with a friend of mine, *Coey Chapman*, who can recite Egyptian mythology like it's her phone number. She listens to my ideas, gives a thumbs-up (or down), and makes suggestions as needed. Very helpful to have smart friends!"

What sort of menace will Pantha face in the first story arc? "So many menaces!" Jerwa said. "Mamba! Blood-Red Queen of Hearts! Egyptian gods! Fleas and ticks!"

Pantha is cursed by the gods with eternal life—but is that really a curse? "I don't think she sees it that way," Jerwa said. "That being said, this first arc will remind her very sharply that she was once part of an amazing culture. I'd like to see that hit her hard, and I have some ideas on how she might deal with that. *Big* ideas..."

Jerwa mentioned "a slew of guest-stars from the vast Vampirella universe." Just who can readers expect to see? "I wish we could call this book ***Pantha AND Pendragon!*** The old wizard ally of Vampirella plays a key role here, along with Tongueman, Lorelei, and Skarr. They're a sort of oddball family and superteam that Pantha is tied to, whether she likes it or

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

not. There's also the League of Misfit Toys, cast aside as extraneous when Vampirella started working for the Vatican. I intend to keep them in the book as a constant presence."

What about Vampirella herself? "I'm pretty sure I can't talk about what I know about Vampi's future, so let me say this: There is some serious world-building happening!" Jerwa replied.

Does Dynamite have any other Vampirella-related concepts from the Warren days that readers can look forward to in the future? "Yes, but I will say what I've said a few times: all good things at their own pace," Barrucci said. " We are not rushing characters out for the sake of rushing them out. I would say look for the next groups/characters to launch in October. We would like retailers and fans to have at least three issues of ***Pantha*** in their hands before we launch a new title."

Are there any plans to collect the original Pantha material as well? If so, when will that start? "Some of the Pantha material is part of the ***Vampirella Master Series Volume 7***, in stores in mid-April (as *Stan Lee* would say, 'a shameless plug!'); fans will be able to start catching up on Pantha there," Barrucci said. "This collection is another book we wanted in consumers' hands before offering ***Pantha***, to give existing fans a chance to have all the existing books in one collection and to give fans who have not read Pantha a chance to pick it up."

Barrucci is confident that readers who have enjoyed Vampirella's adventures will be equally pleased with ***Pantha***. "Brandon has presented a great launch pad and long term plan, and *Pow Rodrix's* art complements it very well," Barrucci said. "The 'icing on the cake' are beautiful and striking covers by *Mark Texiera* and *Sean Chen*. This is a great creative team that will hit this one out of the park!"

"Brandon will be playing a larger role in our ***Vampirella*** plans as we take a bite out of 2012," editor *Joe Rybandt* added. "Pantha is his first stab at all the action!"

Pantha #1, a $3.99 comic, is slated for June release.

by Cliff Biggers

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

CSNsider

•Writer *Sam Humphries*, creator of ***Our Love as Real*** and writer of ***Fanboys Vs. Zombies*** and soon to take over ***Ultimate Comics Ultimates***, invites readers to join him for the ultimate SF space-time adventure in ***Higher Earth***, a new series illustrated by *Francesco Biagini*. "***Higher Earth*** is a sci-fi revenge story set in an empire that has conquered over a hundred earths across alternate time-lines," Humphries said. "We follow Rex and Heidi as they slash a bloody path through an empire where going from one time-line to the next is as natural as taking a flight from New York to London. It's a massive cognitive leap that is now a day-to-day reality for a civilization of a thousand billion citizens." Boom Studios is launching the series with a special $1 first issue that

contains 22 pages of story and art—and at that price, who *can't* afford to give it a try! Look for it in mid-May.

•IDW's original anthology by female creators, ***Womanthology: Heroic,*** was so well received that the publisher has announced plans to launch an all-new ongoing ***Womanthology: Space*** comic book series in September.

"***Womanthology: Heroic*** was such a big, wonderful experience, and not in my wildest dreams could I have hoped that it would go on to further adventures!" artist and ***Womanthology*** project manager *Renae De Liz* said. "I hope that ***Womanthology: Space!*** is just the start of a long line of amazing books that further open doors for women in comics everywhere... This has always been so important to me, as I know first-hand how even one show of support can offer so much confidence and motivation in your work. This not only helps aspiring creators gain valuable experiences and a platform to help further careers, but it also allows established professionals to reach out and lend their comics knowledge and know how. I am so glad that the positivity and fun of ***Womanthology*** is going further— this time into Space!"

"We're extremely excited about the ongoing and continuing to showcase the talented and inspiring work by women in the industry at all levels. Whether they're just starting out or seasoned veterans, these creators all have something to say with their stories and being able to offer them this opportunity just shows that a little idea can make a huge difference," editor *Mariah Huehner* added.

•When *Jim Lee* returns to ***Justice League #9*** as artist, he's bringing a new villain with him—not a revamp of a classic villain, mind you, but an all-new adversary destined to become a major nemesis for the team, according to DC's solicitation copy. While we don't know his identity or backstory yet, we do know what he looks like, thanks to DC's offering an advance peek at *Jim Lee's* design sketch for the mystery man.

SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
THOR METES OUT PUNISHMENT TO THE DEFEATED LOKI...
MY HAMMER'S WALL OF LIGHTNING WILL HOLD YOU CAPTIVE, EVIL ONE!
NOW THAT LOKI IS TAKEN CARE OF--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-26
I ONLY PRAY I CAN REACH MJ IN TIME!
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Back to Press

The number of sellout titles from major publishers seems to have increased dramatically in 2012—and as a result, we have an impressive list of books going back to press!

- ***Adventure Time #2 2nd Printing*** (JAN128240), in stores 4/11.
- ***Age of Apocalypse #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB128183), featuring a variant cover by *Chris Bachalo*, in stores 4/25.
- ***Avengers Assemble #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB128178), featuring a variant cover by *Mark Bagley*, in stores 4/25.
- ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #1 2nd Printing*** (JAN128186), featuring a variant cover by *Jim Cheung*, in stores 4/18.
- ***Batman #6 2nd Printing*** (FEB118152), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 4/18.
- ***Batman: The Dark Knight #5 2nd Printing*** (FEB128153), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 4/18.
- ***Glory #24 2nd Printing*** (JAN128160), in stores 4/11.
- ***Grimm Fairy Tales: Alice in Wonderland #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB128088), in stores 4/18.
- ***The Manhattan Projects #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB128156), in stores 4/4.
- ***The Manhattan Projects #1 3rd Printing*** (FEB128156), in stores 4/18.
- ***Peter Panzerfaust #2 2nd Printing*** (JAN128290), in stores 4/11.
- ***Prophet #23 2nd Printing*** (JAN128231), in stores 4/18.
- ***Saga #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB128161), in stores 4/11.
- ***Saga #1 3rd Printing*** (FEB128166), in stores 4/25.
- ***Scarlet Spider #3 2nd Printing*** (FEB128182), featuring a variant cover by *Ryan Stegman*, in stores 4/25.
- ***Secret Avengers #21.1 2nd Printing*** (FEB128184), featuring a variant cover by *Art Adams*, in store 4/25.
- ***Secret Avengers #22 2nd Printing*** (FEB128185), featuring a variant cover by *Art Adams*, in store 4/25.
- ***Secret Avengers #23*** (FEB128175), featuring a variant cover by *Art Adams*, in stores 4/25.
- ***Suicide Squad #7 2nd Printing*** (FEB128151), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 4/18.
- ***Thief of Thieves #2 2nd Printing*** (JAN128162), in stores 4/11.
- ***Winter Soldier #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB128179), featuring a variant cover by *Lee Bermejo*, in stores 4/25.
- ***Winter Soldier #2 2nd Printing*** (FEB128180), featuring a variant cover by *Lee Bermejo*, in stores 4/25.
- ***Winter Soldier #3 2nd Printing*** (FEB128181), featuring a variant cover by *Lee Bermejo*, in stores 4/25.

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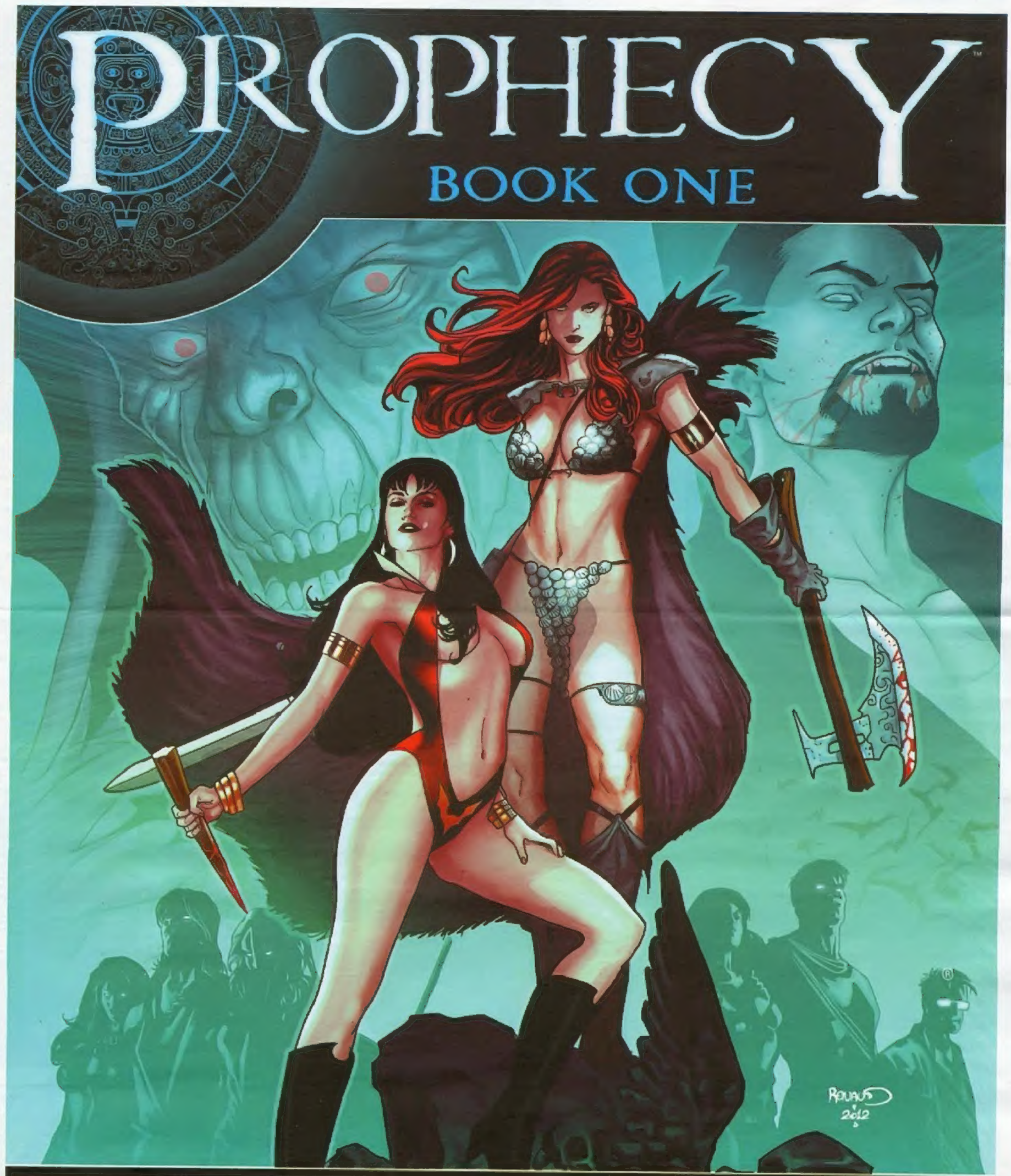
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Coming Comics—IDW in June

Dave Stevens Covers & Stories is a hardcover collection of Stevens' covers and shorter works, including some rarely reprinted pieces and a few that are incomplete.

The kabuki-esque rock group comes to comics once again with the release of ***KISS #1*** by *Chris Ryall & Jamal Igle.* In the first story arc, four ordinary humans in 1920s Chicago find themselves caught up in a battle of epic proportions in "Dressed to Kill," part 1!

John Layman & John McCrea brings the Martians to Earth in ***Mars Attacks #1,*** the launch of a new series based on the legendary Topps 1962 trading card series.

Sergio Aragones is the latest artist to be the subject of a deluxe volume reprinting his original art in full color to show the details of the pencil art, corrections, etc. ***Sergio Aragones' Groo the Wanderer Artist's Edition*** features 144 pages of Aragones art in 12" x 17" format—the same size as the original art.

IDW collected editions include:

- ***Danger Girl: Revolver TP,*** collecting the miniseries by *Andy Hartnell & Chris Madden.*
- ***Doctor Who II Volume 4 TP,*** which brings the Doctor, Amy, and Rory into the realm of 1941 Casablanca.
- ***Dungeons & Dragons Classics Volume 3 TP,*** reprinting ***Advanced Dungeons & Dragons #s 19-26 & Annual #1.***
- ***Dungeons & Dragons Volume 1: Shadowplague,*** a softcover collection of the first four issues of the ongoing series.
- ***Flash Gordon Volume 2 HC,*** continuing the comprehensive collection every Sunday ***Flash Gordon*** and ***Jungle Jim*** Sunday strip by *Alex Raymond.*
- ***GI Joe: A Real American Treasury Edition,*** collecting 72 pages of classic *GI oe* in oversized treasury format.
- ***GI Joe: Cobra Command Volume 1 TP,***

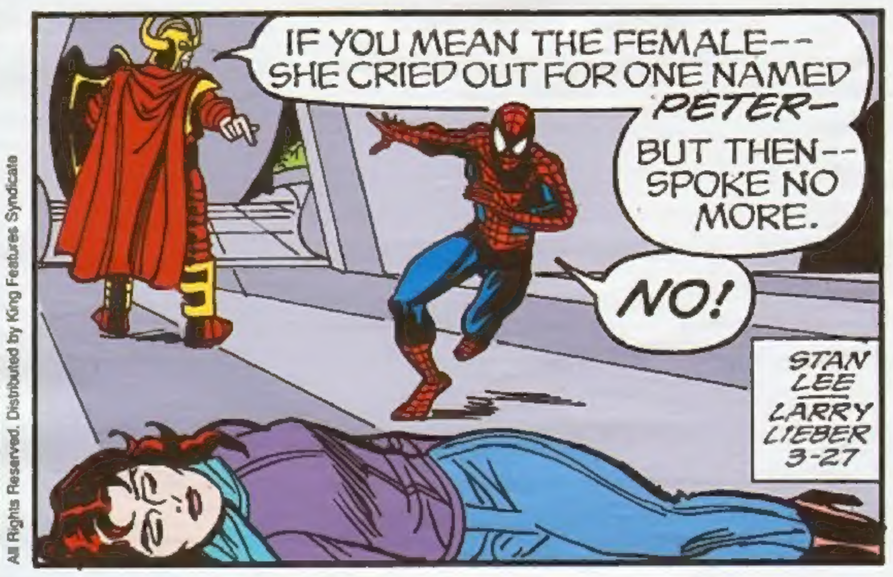
collecting the story in which the new Cobra Commander kicks off his reign with total war.

- ***GI Joe: Roots of Retaliation TP,*** collecting the famed "Silent Interlude" plus the first appearances of Roadblock, Duke, Flint, Lady Jaye and the original Joe himself—Joe Colton!
- ***Infestation 2 Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the first installments of the crossover event that brought Lovecraftean horrors to the IDW universe.
- ***KISS Greatest Hits Volume 1: The Marvel Years,*** collecting both ***Marvel Super Specials*** in one trade paperback.
- ***Locke & Key Volume 5: Clockworks HC,*** collecting the miniseries by *Joe Hill & Gabriel Rodriguez.*
- ***Magic: The Gathering TP,*** collecting the first four issues of the game-inspired comic.
- ***Mars Attacks! Classics Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries from Topps Comics.
- ***Star Trek/Legion of Super-Heroes HC,*** collecting the crossover miniseries by *Chris Roberson & Jeffrey Moy.*
- ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Micro-Series Volume 1 TP,*** collecting four standalone tales starring each Turtle.
- ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Classics Volume 1 TP,*** collecting long-out-of-print material by *Kevin Eastman, Michael Dooney, Mark Martin, & Mark Bode.*
- ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Volume 1: Change Is Constant Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting the early issues of the ongoing series, along with Kevin Eastman's fully illustrated and lettered layouts.

- ***Transformers Classics: UK Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Transformers UK #s 78-87, 93, & 96-104.***
- ***Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***More Than Meets the Eye #s 1-4*** and ***Death of Optimus Prime.***
- ***X-9: Secret Agent Corrigan Volume 4 HC,*** collecting *Archie Goodwin-Al Williamson* strips from 11/4/74 through 6/11/77.

Coming Comics—Image in June

Carbon Gray returns in the three-part ***Carbon Gray Volume 2*** by *Paul Gardner, Hoang Nguyen, Khari Evans, & Kinsun Loh.* Months have passed since the events of volume one. By order of the Queen an expedition force sets out in



SHE MUST RETURN TO EARTH RIGHT AWAY!
NO MERE MORTAL CAN MAKE THAT JOURNEY UNAIDED.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-28
AID HE SHALL HAVE!

search of the real stone of Gottfaust. Anna hunts down the conspirators behind an assassination attempt on Her Majesty. What has become of the sisters in exile, Eva and Giselle?

Steve Niles, Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, Phil Noto, &Kevin Mellon premiere "American Muscle" and "Triggergirl 6" in ***Creator Owned Heroes #1,*** which also features an interview with *Neil Gaiman.*

An ex-soldier turned space pirate, finds himself stranded on a mysterious planet in alien territory in ***Planetoid #1*** by *Ken Garing*. As he explores the long-abandoned industrial ruins of the planet's surface, he will have to rely on resourcefulness and bare-bones survival tactics in order to unlock the secrets of a planet where survival is a luxury... and escape an impossibility.

In ***The Red Diary/The Re[a]d Diary Flipbook HC,*** *Teddy Kristiansen & Steven T. Seagle* present two version of the same tale: one an English translation of the graphic novel by Kristiansen, the other the completely different script by Seagle written before he collaborated on the

translation.

Todd McFarlane officially resumes the writing honors for his flagship creation with ***Spawn #220,*** for which he also supplies a trio of cover images. Old enemies will return. New dangers will emerge. And events woven within the complex fabric of Spawn's rich mythology will begin to coalesce. (This issue is also offered in a special 40-page black and white addition that will also include a sampling of McFarlane pages from ***Spawn #1*** and more.)

Image collected editions include:

- ***The Activity Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***The Activity #s 1-5.***
- ***Artifacts Volume 4 TP,*** collecting ***Artifacts #s 14-18.***
- ***Fatale Volume 1: Death Chases Me TP,*** collecting ***Fatale #s 1-5.***
- ***King City TP,*** collecting ***King City #s 1-12.***
- ***Liberty Meadows Sunday Collection Book 1 HC,*** collecting the first three years of ***Liberty Meadows*** Sunday strips by *Frank Cho,* fully re-mastered and digitally recolored.
- ***Mondo TP,*** collecting the *Ted McKeever* three-part series.
- ***Morning Glories Volume 3: PE TP,*** collecting ***Morning Glories #s 13-19.***
- ***Savage Dragon: Invasion TP,*** collecting ***Savage Dragon #s 175-180.***
- ***Spawn: Origins Volume 15 TP,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 87-92.***
- ***Super Dinosaur Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Super Dinosaur #s 6-11.***
- ***The Walking Dead Volume 16 TP: A Larger World,*** collecting ***Walking Dead #s 91-96.***
- ***Witchblade Compendium Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Witchblade #s 101-150.***

READER COMIC SHOP NEWS RED K AWARDS

Back in December, we presented the 21st annual edition of our Red K Awards, a blending of commendations and critiques dedicated to pointing out some of the best and worst of the past year. At the end of that feature, we encouraged you, our readers, to send us your own Red K Awards for the best and worst of 2010—and that's just what you did! So let's take a look at what you had to say!

As is the case every year, some books generated diametrically opposite responses—and this year, the most reader-awarded title was DC's ***Flashpoint,*** *with the Reader Red K's running the gamut. Here are a few of the more than two dozen awards that we received for this title.*

But what about the rest of the comics industry in 2011? Readers had plenty to say about a wide range of other titles, including books from the big guys and from the smaller publishers. Here are some of the highlights (and on many of these there were duplications as well).

The "Darker Knight" Award

"I'm amazed that, in the ***Flashpoint*** miniseries, *Geoff Johns* could introduce a better, more inspiring Batman than the one that we've known for all these years. I'm missing Thomas Wayne already..."
—*Kelly Gammage*

"Flushpoint" Award

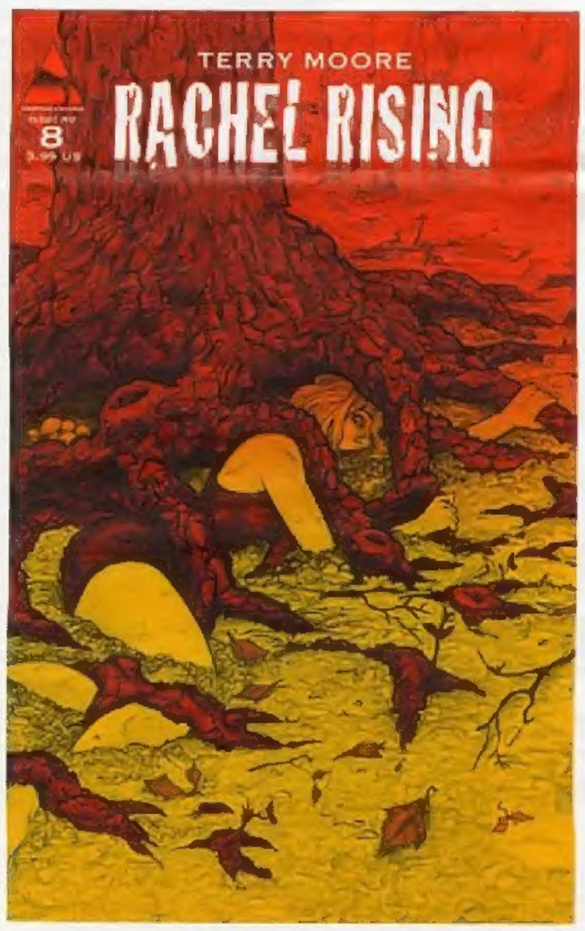
"While DC Comics took a huge gamble on and seems to have succeeded with The New 52 re-launch of their DC universe, shame on them too for destroying all the hard work and creativity that came before. I understand their business decision but it's kind of sad when you think that three of the longest running series in comics history have now ended. R.I.P. ***Batman, Detective Comics,*** and ***Action Comics.***"
—*Marc Cawiezel*

The "Flashy Finish" Award

"What a great way to say goodbye to the old DCU and make way for the New 52! A great alternate reality story that ends with a merger of the old, the new, and the unknown, leading into an exciting new world... now *that's* comics!"
—*Megan McCallister*

The "Missing the Point" Award

"I really enjoyed the twisted world that the writers introduced in all those ***Flashpoint*** books, but it seems like such a waste of creativity to have them put all that effort into reinventing a DC Universe, only to have it all thrown away at the end of the series. Some of those characters were much cooler than the ones we're seeing in the New 52..."
—*Chuck Cheng*



The "Moore Fun" Award

Terry Moore's Rachel Rising

"Some comic creators are one-hit wonders, but *Terry Moore* most definitely doesn't fall into that category. He produced one of the best human-interest romantic dramas in comics (***Strangers in Paradise***), he followed it up with a riveting superhero story (***Echo***), and now he's delivering one of the best horror-suspense books ever done in comics. (And if that's not enough, he's also sharing his talents in a series of "How to Draw" books that aren't just another basic comic book tutorial.)"
—*Cassie Durlacher*

The "Broken Clock" Award
Lady Mechanika

"This Steampunk inspired series is certainly entertaining; however, during the entire calendar year they were only able to get *two* issues out! That's not exactly running like clockwork!"
—*Tony Bowers*

The "Wholly Terrible" Award
Frank Miller's Holy Terror

"Never before has a major talent foisted off such a throwaway piece on his loyal fans. Minimal story, embarrassingly crude artwork, high price—the only thing I can say good about this book is that the paper quality was nice..."
—*Matt Green*

The "Art for Art's Sake" Award
Art Adams covers

"*Brian Bolland, Dave Johnson,* and *Adam Hughes,* move over—*Art Adams* is turning out the best covers out there! Whether he's doing Japanese monsters or superheroes, he always produces an eye-catching cover that makes you look at the book, even if it's a title you don't normally buy! Now, if only someone could get him to do entire comics!..."
—*Darrell LeMarist*

The "Rotten to the Corps" Award
Green Lantern (the movie)

"On paper, ***Green Lantern*** should have been *the* film to beat at the box office among the many comic book offerings, but the aggressive mediocrity of the final product made us long for a Roger Corman version of the film."
—*Taylor Ramsey*

The "Opposites Attract" Award
Archie meets KISS

"When I first heard about this, I thought, 'Yeah, right.' But it turned out to be one of the most fun stories of the year! Who'da thunk it?"
—*Tony Bowers*

The "Killing Time" Award
Superhero Death Storylines

"I guess that these were unexpected and meaningful at one point, but the whole idea of superhero deaths is so clichéd and dreary now that it's the equivalent of a writer and editor saying 'we didn't have anything orignal in mind for this issue, so we thought we'd kill someone instead.'"
—*Amit Sanjay*

The "Lost in Space" Award
Aliens & Predator Comics

"What happened to Dark Horse's ***Aliens, Predator,*** and ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** comic books? After a so called major re-launch of the three titles in 2009 consisting of three story lines that went nowhere and some incredibly poor art choices, they have disappeared from comic shop shelves once again. With an ***Alien*** prequel coming this June to theaters, it'd be a great time for Dark Horse to put some books on the racks!"
—*Marc Cawiezel*

The "Comics Rock!" Award
The incredible diversity of today's comics

"For every embarrassingly bad thing out there in, there is something else that we thrill to. The New 52, love it or hate it, was great fun! The mere fact that I can buy only the second ***Action #1*** and thrill to it the way people in 1938 must have done, makes up for every stupid mega crossover, must -ave, double-bag, foil embossed, collectors item yadda yadda yadda!...
—*Taylor Ramsey*

The "Taking a Stand" Award
Stephen King's The Stand

"In an industry when six issues from the same creative team is nothing short of a miracle,the team of *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa,Mike Perkins, & Laura Martin* have spent over three years adapting King's epic novel! And have done it without missing deadlines! Great job, guys!"
—*Tony Bowers*

The "Green Hornet on Strike" Award
The Green Hornet Strikes

"Marvel may have taken its time completing *The Twelve* maxiseries, but Dynamite is giving them a run for their money, keeping issue #10 (the finale of their futuristic take on Green Hornet & Kato) from seeing publication. There may not have been as many fans of this title clamoring for its ending to see the light of day, but we deserve to see how this well crafted tale winds up!"
—*Vinny Bellizia*

The "Avengers Disassemble—Please!" Award
Marvel's Avengers titles

"I've been buying comics since the early days of the Silver Age, so I thought I had become jaded about the things that publishers do. When Marvel finally reached the point where they were producing more Avengers titles each month than the total number of titles they used to publish in the 1970s, though, I decided that enough was enough. When they decide to put out one or two great books rather than a half-dozen talking heads series that don't even fit together well, maybe I'll give them a try again..."
—*Norm Hyder*

The "What's the Point?" Award
Marvel's Point One Issues

"Marvel not only kept on with the Point One issues, but they don't even fulfill the original purpose of the initiative. The first wave with .1's in the middle of storylines not finished (***Thor***), by creative teams completely different from the regular crew (***Thor***), and that not only didn't tease upcoming events (***Thor***), but were a "jumping point" for a series about to be changed (***Thor***). Now, Marvel's doing it again. The stand-alone reader-friendly jumping-point coming-this-year Point One issues still don't feel quite there. The Point One one-shot is more confusing than seductive. Most useless of all—a Zero-Point-One issue? Isn't a first issue already a jumping-on point? (And, honestly, *Warren Ellis* on ***Secret Avengers*** didn't need any Point one thing.)
—*uyuyuy*

The "Walking Dud" Award
All those stupid zombie comics

"I could understand doing dozens of zombie comics if the best-known book wasn't any good, but let's face it: all of these other books put together don't have a fraction of the originality and spark of *Robert Kirkman's* ***Walking Dead.*** Quit embarrassing yourselves and come up with something original."
—*Tom Eversohn*

Still Savage After All These Years
Savage Dragon

"Twenty years after the company's founding, only one original Image comic written and drawn by one of the Image founders still rolls on: *Erik Larsen's* ***Savage Dragon***!"
—*Jack Dumpert*

THOR WOKE ME FROM LOKI'S SPELL.
SO YOU'RE THE REAL LADY SIF!
AND NOW WE SHALL SET THINGS TO RIGHT!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
3-29
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SHE'S SO WEAK! CAN SHE SURVIVE A FLIGHT BACK TO EARTH?
PERHAPS—WITH MY HELP!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
3-30
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The "Loc Pick" Award

DC Comics letters columns

"They brought them back shortly before the New 52 relaunch, but now it looks like the letters columns are part of the old DCU. Where are the New 52 letters columns? I'd much rather read those than text pages filled with promotional hype!"

—*Roz Hulan*

The "Going Ape" Award

Planet of the Apes

"Over the past decade, licensed comics reached the same nadir they had reached years ago: throwaway products created by people looking for quick cash. Then Boom released its ***Planet of the Apes*** comic and showed everyone how it was done. It was faithful to series continuity but unafraid to expand beyond it. (And making the bomb worshippers from ***Beneath the Planet of the Apes*** serious and interesting was no mean feat, either!)"

—*Jordan Simmons*

The "Full of Sound & Fury" Award

J. Michael Straczynski

"Now that his much-ballyhooed ***Superman*** and ***Wonder Woman*** story arcs have wrapped up, I can see why he walked away from them halfway through—he was probably as bored as I was!"

—*Tara Bowen*

"Mission Impossible" Award

War of the Independents

Kudos to writer and artist *Dave Ryan* and Red Anvil Comics for attempting the impossible with their ***War of the Independents*** six issue epic crossover comic series. Ryan is attempting to incorporate nearly *every* independent comic character ever published into one massive crossover. Who would ever thought it possible to have Cerebus, Faust, Mr. Monster, the Tick, Too Much Coffee Man, Gumby, The Maxx, Flaming Carrot, Megaton Man, Cavewoman, Captain Action, Scud, Bone, Badger, Shi and more all in one book?!"

—*Marc Cawiezel*

The "Now You See 'Em, Now You Don't" Award

Marvel collected editions

I thought the whole idea of a trade paperback or hardcover was to keep popular stories in print, but apparently at Marvel, they're just big comic books that are supposed to sell out quickly and become collectible. I'm not going to buy the newest books in a numbered Marvel paperback series when half the previous volumes are already out of print. Maybe it's time to get behind your books, Marvel!..."

—*Cody Gable*

The "Magnus, Robot Hider" Award

Dark Horse's Magnus, Robot Fighter

Dark Horse may have had some tough financial times, but there is no excuse for announcing a title, shipping the first two issues and then delaying and moving the subsequent issues around until no one cared anymore. If a company needs revenue, it needs customers. To keep customers, it has to ship the product on some kind of reasonable schedule...

—*Roy Gossewehr*

The "Executive Action" Award

The Hit List Agenda from Aspen

"Aspen brought back Executive Assistant Iris with some friends in this multi-series story. While I enjoyed the original ***Iris*** series more, the big story was an interesting read!"

—*Jim Ludwig*

The "Irresistible" Award

Irredeemable & Incorruptible

"All those other publishers produce dozens of comics to create an interesting superhero continuity and *Mark Waid* outdoes most of them with only two comics!"

—*Doug Weaver*

The "Missing in Action" Award

The Essential Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu

"This is one of Marvel's best series from the 1970s, and it's a shame that this *very* essential series isn't a part of Marvel's Essential line."

—*Ron Morris*

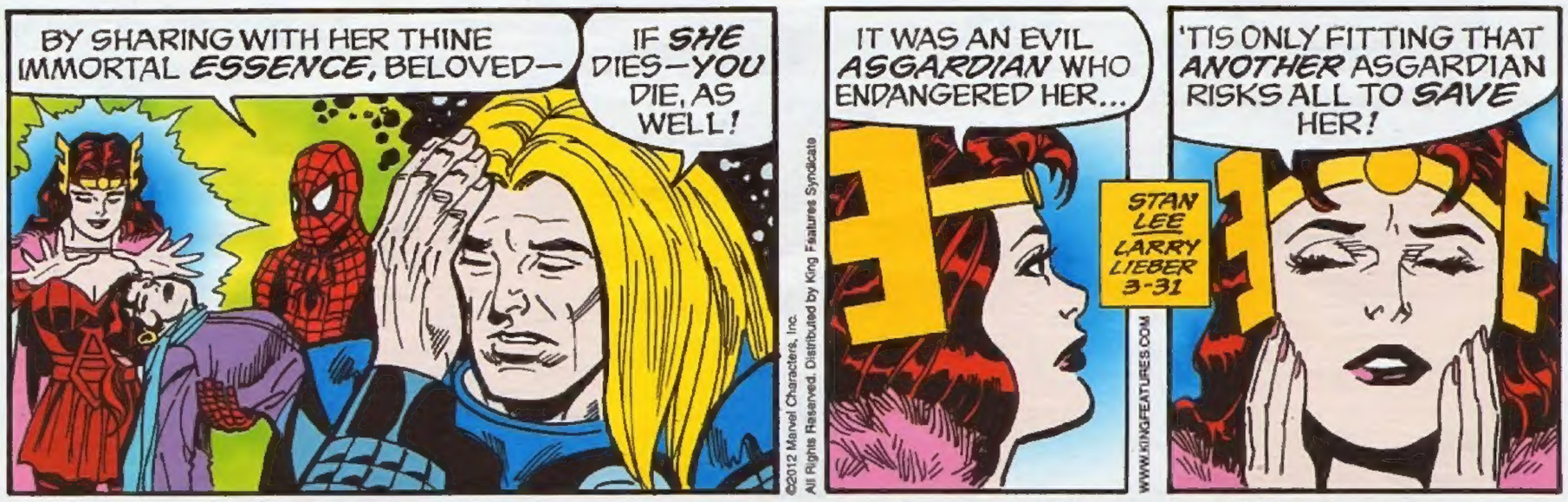
The "Green Shadows" Award

Dynamite Comics

"Now that Dynamite has The Shadow in its stable, wouldn't a team-up with The Green Hornet keep comic fans "buzzing" about the little NJ Comic Publisher that could? Only The Shadow (and Dynamite) knows!"

—*Vinny Bellizia*

And there you have the best and worst of 2011, according to our readers! Thanks to all of you who submitted your own nominations, and I wish we had room to offer something from everyone (you might be surprised to learn how many comics or creators were spotlighted in five or ten different Red K submissions, so some of the awards that made the cut actually represent the sentiments of many other readers as well). And look for us in late December, when we'll do it all over again for 2012!


BY SHARING WITH HER THINE IMMORTAL ESSENCE, BELOVED—
IF SHE DIES—YOU DIE, AS WELL!
IT WAS AN EVIL ASGARDIAN WHO ENDANGERED HER...
'TIS ONLY FITTING THAT ANOTHER ASGARDIAN RISKS ALL TO SAVE HER!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-31
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